The Government of Kerala is to establish the techno-economic viability and confirm availability of land and environmental clearance in respect of fishing harbour projects at Chettuvai (Trichur Distt.) and Cheruwathur (Kasargod Distt.) As regards the proposal for construction of fishing harbour at Kasargod, the Government of Kerala has been requested to submit restructured project report.

Chemical fertilizers and pesticides

1956. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA :
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government consider it important to minimize the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides on the soil; and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Government is promoting Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) which envisage soil test based balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilizers along with organic manures and bio-fertilizers as supplementary source of plant nutrients and also Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to minimize the indiscriminate and injudicious use of chemical pesticides.

Degradation of agricultural land

1957. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of geographical area of 328.60 million hectares, 148.82 million hectares suffers from various kind of degradation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the causes therefor; and

(c) how many hectares of degraded land fall under agricultural land and the steps taken to upgrade the same for agricultural purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) As per National Bureau of

Soil Survey & Land Use Planning (NBSS&LUP), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Regional Centre, Nagpur, out of a total geographical area of 328.60 million ha., about 146.82 million ha. (45%) is suffering from various kinds of degradation in the country. The details of land degradation are:—

Sl.No.	Type of Land Degradation	Extent of Area in million ha.
1.	Water erosion	93.68
2.	Wind erosion	9.48
3.	Water logging	14.30
4.	Salinity/alkalinity	5.95
5.	Soil acidity	16.03
6.	Complex problem	7.38
	Total Degraded area	146.82

The deforestation, certain developmental activities and faulty management practices are mainly responsible for the erosion/land degradation. The Government of India is implementing various types of Watershed Development Programmes, namely, (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Area (NWDPRA), (ii) Soil Conservation for Enhancing Producitivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP&FPR), (iii) Reclamation of Alkali Soil (RAS), (iv) Watershed Development Project for Shifting Cultivation Area (WDPSCA), (v) Watershed Development Fund (WDF), (vi) Externally Aided Projects (EAPs), (vii) Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), (viii) Desert Development Programme (DDP), (ix) Integrated Waste-land Development Project (IWDP), and (x) National Afforestation & Eco-Development Project (NAEP) for development of degraded lands in the country. Under these Programmes, since inception upto end of X Five Year Plan, about 51 million ha. of degraded lands have been developed including agricultural lands.

Hybrid food crops developed by ICAR

1958. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: